G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.

File No. 41-18

191 8.

Serial Nos. 44,45

(88)

Later references.

Previous 7½/2-7/19

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. Two

Part B for Sept 19.

SUBJECT.

Irregularities in the Agricultural Department in connection with the purchase of seed grain

---

SL 457) To, The Director of Agriculture
Nagpur
No Cy 127 Dy 30.9.19
I think this Govt have carefully considered this matter again and do not see any reason to withdraw the remarks in question

W D 1250—GPB—30,000 - 28-1-19

G. R. S. III—1] 1919-20

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(C B.)

NOTES.

File No. PP 41-18

FILE HEADING.

Irregularities in the Agricultural Deptt in Connection with the purchase of Seed grains

From

The Director of Agriculture

No. D.O. Dated 15/8/19 Received 15/8/19

Diary No. 154	Enclos. | Spare Copies.	Serial No. 44

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

Forwards a letter dt 12/8/19 from Mr. H.V. Krishnayya, Recently officiating as Director of Agriculture, Submitting his Remarks on the observations made against him in G.O. No. 2736-71/P.P. 41-18-35 dt 5/6/19 in Connection with certain irregularities in the purchase of Jola Seeds at Dewangere in December 1918 and states that the Criticism of Mr. Krishnayya's work is distinctly unfair and that his Representation deserves the sympathetic Consideration of Govt.

NOTES AND ORDERS.

1 Submitted with References.

hm 19/8/19

3rd member
Dewan

CSK 20/8/19

NOTES—First Sheet.

General and Revenue Secretariat.

PP File No. 41 of 1918.

Serial No.

The f.a.q 5th June last. wherein Customs has observations against the Director ~~of~~ which he now wants to be reconsidered and modified. ~~as~~ chief based on his notes of his then 1st examn (Mr Chandrasekharayya) and was made in accordance with the resolution of the Council which then been approved by Hon. Members. It is a point for consideration whether his case can be reopened.

The matter may be perhaps considered at a meeting of the Council. Sir Thomas may have his opinion of the views of the present & 1st & 2nd members. who ~~took~~ in his previous council resolution ~~which he subscribed thereto~~ ~~case and the Council~~ ~~may be~~ in the case

22/8/19

Devan

No objn
25.8.19

C.
Circulate
25/8

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

GPB—25,000—22-3-15

(For disposal at a meeting)

No. C. 129

.....1919.-2

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Council Matter.

SUBJECT.

(Under clause v of the schedule)

Question of reconsidering the Government Order of 5th ~~June~~ June 1919 relating to certain irregularities in the purchase of jola (seed) by the Agricultural Inspector, Chitaldrug District.

CIRCULATED TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

By Order,

C S Balasundaram Iyengar Jr

Chief *Secretary to Government.*

.....25th August.....1919 .

1560-50/ 30-8-19

Extraordinary Member of Council. 2.9.19.

First Member of Council. Seen 31.8.19

Second Member of Council.

GPB—1,000—3-2-14

Third Member of Council. Seen.

C.129

Extract from the Proceedings of the 504th *Meeting of the Council of His Highness the Maharaja, held at Bangalore on the* 11th September 1919.

7. Subject. - Clause v of the schedule.

Question of reconsidering the Government Order dated 5th June 1919 relating to certain irregularities in the purchase of jola (seed) by the Agricultural Inspector, Chitaldrug District.

Opinion of the Council.

The Council see no reason to withdraw the remarks in the Government Order referred to.

(Signed) M. KANTARAJ URS,
Dewan of Mysore.

"EXTRACT"

C S Balasundaram
Chief Secretary to Government.

WD 1148—GPB—1,000—23-12-19

C.129

G. R. S. 12]

General and Revenue Secretariat.	PP File No. 41 of 1918.
Serial No.	D. F. N. Subtd. 3rd member, C8X 15/9/18 D. F. N. is signing & placed in the file 15/9 D. S. N. Submitted. Dewan C8X 15/9/18

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

GPB—25,000—22-3-15

6

THIRD
Final Note by the ~~First~~ Member of Council.

Subject:— *Question of re-considering the Government order of 5th June 1919 relating to certain irregularities in the purchase of jola (seed) by the Agricultural Inspector, Chitaldrug District.*

H. L.
H. Z.

Under His Highness' orders dated 24th May 1919, a Government order was issued on 5th June 1919, regarding the conduct of certain officers of the Agricultural Department in connection with irregularitities in the purchase of jola seed by the Agricultural Inspector, Chitaldrug District.

Paper under disposal.
H. R.

2. Mr.H.V.Krishnayya who was officiating as Director of Agriculture when the irregularities occurred, has made a representation regarding the observations made in regard to him in paragraph 4 of the above Government order. Dr.Coleman, in forwarding the same, states that the criticism made of Mr.Krishnayya's work in the Government order is distinctly unfair, and that his representation deserves the sympathetic consideration of Government.

Page 3 of Office Notes

3. The matter was considered at a meeting of the Council and it was resolved that the Council see no reason to withdraw the remarks in the Government order referred to.

4. The resolution of the Council is submitted for gracious approval.

MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

Submitted to His Highness.

I submit herewith a Final Note by the.....Third.....

Member of Council on the subject of...re-considering the Government order of 5th June 1919 relating to certain irregularities in the purchase of jola (seed) by the Agricultural Inspector, Chitaldrug District,
for His Highness' gracious approval.

17th Sept-1919

Dewan.

129

Record of Cases submitted for the Orders of His Highness the Maharaja.

Subject.

Question of re-considering the Government Order relating to irregularities in the purchase of jola (seed) by the Agricultural Inspector of Chitaldrug District.

410

Order.

~~KRM~~

20/9/19

Ch. Secy

21.9.19

G. R. S. III–2]

(P 129

General and Revenue Secretariat.

P.P. File No. 41 of 1918.

Serial No.

(*)

31. All urgent or confidential files returned with His Highness' orders may, in the absence of instructions or indications to the contrary, be ordinarily circulated to the Members of Council for perusal after the issue of orders.

33. The Secretaries concerned should see that orders in the cases referred to above are issued at once and that the files are returned immediately after to the Chief Secretary for circulation to the Members.

34. In all other cases, the files will first be circulated to the Members of Council at headquarters and then sent to the Secretariat concerned for the issue of orders.

Circulated to the Members of Council for perusal of (*)

His Highness' orders $\frac{\text{before}}{\text{after}}$ issue of orders. (*Vide* Rules 31, 33 and 34 of the Subsidiary Rules for the conduct of business of Council in the Manual of Council Rules and Procedure).

C. Balasundaram
Chief Secretary to Govt.

Through the Secretary to Government,

....Department.

2289-279.
26.9.19.

FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL Seen
26.9.19

SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL 24/9

Third.
~~TEMPORARY~~ MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

please put up draft & submit to the Third Member of Council

Draft-sub'd
28-9-19

3 Members

Issue
28/9

NOTE.—Contn. sheet

1024
29.9.19

MVB 1578—2GPB—500—4.3.19

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

P. File No. 41 of 191 8

Serial No. 45

To

The Director of Agriculture
in Mysore

no. C. 8. 127 & 30. 9. 1919

Intimates that Government have carefully considered the matter again and do not see their way to withdraw the [illegible]

B

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
POLITICAL BRANCH
21 OCT. 1919

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

CB154

Telegraphic Address,
"Agri, Bangalore."

CB Put with the letter 1578/19 PP 41-18 & 44.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
MYSORE STATE.

D. O. No.

Confidential

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.

Bangalore, 15th August 1919.

Dear Mr. Balasundaram Iyer,

In forwarding herewith a confidential D.O. letter from Mr. H. V. Krishnayya with reference to G.O. No. 927366-71/PP 91.18.35-9 the 5th June, 1919 I have to state that I have gone through the papers relating to the subject. I feel that the criticism of his work is distinctly unfair and trust that his letter will receive the serious and sympathetic consideration of Government.

Yours sincerely,
[illegible]

C. S. Balasundaram Iyer, Esq., B.A.
Chief Secretary to Govt.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Bangalore.
August 12, 1919.

Dear Mr. Balasundaram Iyer,

If it is permissible and useful to say anything about an order which has already been passed and published, I would respectfully venture to submit the following for the kind consideration of Government with reference to certain personal remarks which they have been pleased to make with regard to my work in connection with the scheme for the increased production of foodstuffs in the State. I shall consider it a favour if you would be so kind as to place it before Government for such action as they may consider suitable.

The remarks reffered to above are contained in the beginning of para 4 of G.O. No.27366-71/PP.41-18-35 of June 5, 1919. They are that

1. from the perusal of the papers of the case, Government are constrained to observe that this important matter has not from the beginning been properly managed.

2. It does not appear that the officiating Director himself took any active part in working out the scheme

3. beyond issuing instructions of a more or less indefinite character.

The first is a general indictment of the conduct of all the work done under this scheme and I shall beg leave to refer to this later. With regard to the second, I would like to state that the scheme which Government were pleased to sanction in their order No.16487-546/P.P. 41-18-6. of December 4, 1918. was prepared by me. The appointments and arrangements for getting seed from outside the State whenever necessary were made by me. Detailed

personal instructions were given to the Deputy and Asistant Directors of Agriculture in the course of meetings arranged between those officers and myself.. As this work is more or less related with they work of other departments,there has been a good deal of work which had to be done in consultation with other officers.. All this has been done in personal interviews to save time and the bulk of it therefore finds no mention in official records; but I may say that the number of interviews I have had during this short period of one year exceeds what has fallen to my lot during all the previous twenty four years of my official career.. I have met all the Inspectors except one, in their respective charges and instructed them.. Finally every paper that has to do with this work is personally dealt with by me.. I do not know if it is the intention of Government that the Director should have engaged directly in this work; but it has been impossible for me to directly pass or purchase seed as this work was going on at one and the same time extensively all over the State.. Even if it was possible,I beg to submit that it would have been undesirable to take up this work for the following reasons:-

i.. Time was one of the chief factors for the success of the undertaking and the necessity of purchases incessantly coming up for formal sanction would have meant a lot of delay. Considerable discretionary power had therefore to be vested in the divisional officers who I venture to submit are of sufficiently high status to carry the responsibility..

ii.. This discretionary power has always been exercised by the divisional officers in the past,in the matter of seed purchase; and in the absence of any flagrant instance of misuse of such power,I should not have fe[illegible]

justified in limiting their power at the time..

iii.. The Agricultural Inspector if he is worth anything, should be capable of judging whether grain is or is not fit for use as seed..

As already stated, most of the instructions were given in the course of personal interviews. But I am herewith submitting copies of some letters issued from this office perusal of which will, it is hoped show that the instructions, with the Government orders on the subject copies of which have been promptly sent to all subordinate offices, are clear with regard to the various aspects of work under this scheme such as the buying, selling and the transport of seed grains. With regard to buying, the instructions are that the seed should be good; that adequate stocks should be laid in; that the help of the revenue authorities should be sought in the case of large stocks; and that payment up to 50% more than the rate fixed by Government was authorised. With regard to selling, the sales should be conducted mostly on a cash basis and that the sale price should be inclusive of cost price and transport and other incidental charges. The former instruction was personally given to the divisional / officers who have communicated it to all the Inspectors and the latter refers to the period before the order directing that seed grain should be sold at local market rates was passed.. Transport and other facilities are dealt with in my letter No.. 1006-1007/D of December 10, 1918. I may observe that I submitted copies of these letters with my report of the enquiry though they did not seem be quite necessary for the case. I did so however as I was anxious that the subordinate officers should not be

held accountable for anything arising out of vagueness in communications of this office and I hoped that the instructions would be considered sufficient and as definite as they could be under the circumstances.

I do not know if Government were thinking of any particular aspect when they observe that this important matter has not been from the beginning properly managed. I hope I shall not be considered as unduly trespassing on the patience of Government if I touch upon some of the special difficulties that were met with in working this scheme. The specially unfavourable character of the season was not unknown to the department and arrangements were being made in a small way to stock seeds for distribution wherever necessary; but no ambitious programme was contemplated for lack of resources in men and money. About this time Government were holding a series of meetings to concert measures for grappling with the serious situation that had arisen; and one of these -- that on November 20,1918, I was asked to attend. I was there given five days to prepare a detailed scheme in for stocking and selling seed. The scheme was submitted on the 25th. of November and was sanctioned on the 4th. of December. The department now stood committed to the task of supplying seeds to the whole of the State with an agency composed of a few young men with some theoretical knowledge and no district experience and a few fieldmen with very little of either theory or practice, without time for preparation such as older departments better able to enforce their orders seem to have had. The sowing season was nearly past and seed was hard to get. The stocks of suitable seed grain were in general too small to be liable to be commandeered; and besides, there was, and I believe is, considerable doubt as to whether grain could be commandeered

at all for seed purposes and the rates fixed by Government applied to seed grains. Whatever the reasons may be, the fact remains that I can recall no single instance where our stock of seed has been obtained by commandeering. The department was left to its own devices and the seed required had to be purchased at rates applicable to seed grains which are as a rule higher than those of grain used for consumption. Then there were difficulties with regard to transport to contend with, and it was not uncommon especially in the beginning, for consignments to be held up for weeks. Even in the very few instances where grain was requisitioned from Government grain depots in accordance with Government orders, difficulties have been met with. Government are not unaware of one instance where I have been trying for over a month past to get some grain for use as seed but without success.

The scheme submitted by me was drawn up for the period of one year but it was sanctioned in the first instance for three months. Then the question of getting an intermediate cereal crop put in areas commanded by channels came up. The concession of providing irrigation water for this crop in the Hemavati channels came somewhat late and a good many cultivators who wished to grow an additional crop drew back as they feared that their main paddy crop would be interfered with. The agriculturists under the Krishnarajasagara channels did not evince any particular keenness in the scheme probably because it went against long established "mamool" and partly because a good many of them being only tenants, they could not reap the full profit for their extra trouble. On seeking further instructions, I was informed in April that the seed distribution should continue also during the main season. The effect of this sanction in instalments

17

has been unfavourable to continuity of effort and organisation.

I am anxious not to be understood as saying this in any spirit of complaint whatsoever. The measures in connection with the control of the serious food situation which had arisen were new and no precedent was available for guidance in cases of doubt and delicacy. The departments that had anything to do with these had therefore to walk warily and adjustments and readjustments in procedure were frequently necessary in the light of experience.

Coming next to the particular case under reference jola seed was difficult to get at the time and the lot purchased by the agricultural Inspector while somewhat inferior could not be pronounced unfit for seed or consumption. In view of the urgency of the matter, distribution of this seed would have been justifiable provided a higher seed rate was recommended and the seed was sold at a cheap rate without guarantee. The chief offence of the Inspector lies in the fact that he bought it from a dealer who held large stocks at double the maximum Government rate, while, if the proper authorities had been approached it could possibly have been secured at Government rates. I am not able to say for certain whether credulity or dishonesty is involved in this matter.

I need not state that in a department composed of all sorts and conditions of men, things sometimes do go wrong in spite of all safeguards. I am also aware that a certain amount of blame attaches to the head of a department when such a thing does happen. I have naturally spent a good deal of anxious and careful thought over the matter; but I have not been able to discover what could have been done to prevent such an occurrence.

In spite of the advense conditions noted above, con-

siderable work has been done; and I sincerely believe that the scheme has been greatly helpful to the agriculturists. Two lakhs and sixteen thousand seers of seed grains have been distributed up to date which at a conservative estimate and allowing for failures, should represent about fifteen thousand acres of crop producing ninety thousand pallas of grain and twenty thousand tons of fodder. The addition to the stock of food grains of the State resulting from all the seed sold up to the beginning of the main season and a considerable fraction of that sold subsequently may I think be fairly placed to the credit of the efforts made by the department.

2160 Kolleram

I have tried to show that the work is of great magnitude, that it had to be undertaken without preparation and adequate staff and that the department has been working under difficulties of a special and unusual nature at every step. While it may be admitted that all the work possible under optimum conditions could not for obvious reasons be done, the best that was possible under the circumstances has been done. Whether the results achieved come up to expectations or not, I would respectfully submit that the burden was not borne either in a light-hearted or irresponsible manner. Will it be too much to hope that Government will be pleased to consider that this matter is one rather for sympathetic treatment than for wholesale condemnation because one unit in the system was gullible or dishonest or another was lax in supervision ?

Yours sincerely,

A Chinnaswamy

C.S.Balasundaram Iyer Esq. B.A..

Chief Secretary to Government,,

D.O. letter No. 1008/D of December 10, 1918. to the Assistant Director of Agriculture.

xxxxx I must observe that it is not an easy matter to send telegraphic instructions on frequently insufficient data. I can only give general directions and you will understand that a good deal has necessarily to be left to the discretion of the local officers. If the emergency food production scheme is to prove a success, every member of the department has to give the best that is in him and I hope that they will not fail to rise to the occasion.

In the purchase of seed grain the price of which is fixed by Government for the place of purchase, efforts should be made not to unduly exceed the price. If you ~~kn~~ know of any large stocks, the Revenue department will on request get it for you. If you have to collect the seed from house to house, you must do the best you can, always working in close co-operation with the revenue authorities. You must be quite sure that the seed is good; that is what the department is there for.

The grant of Rs. 30,000/ is an advance and transactions therefore should not involve any loss to Government. Transport and other incidental charges should be added to sale price.

I shall be glad if you will issue clear instructions to such of your men as are on this work on the above lines.

D.O.. letter No.. 185/D.O. of December 2, 1918.to the Assistant Director of Agriculture.

From your postscript to your D.O.. of the 28th. am I to understand that jola has been negotiated to be purchase at Rs.. 28/8-a palla or is it Rs.. 8/8- a palla ? It looks uncommonly like the former in the letter.. I expect you have seen the maximum rates fixed by Government for grain for each district.. I don't mind your paying a little more in consideration of quality, but 28/8- is absurdly high. If you cannot get it at reasonable rates,, I am sure the Revenue authorities will help you if you ask them. The Revenue Commissioner has written to the Deputy Commissioner of Chitaldrug to give you all facilities for the purchase of seed if you certify that it is required for departmental purposes.. I do not think you will have any difficulties from that side.. There is some difficulty about being able to get blank priority certificates. So if you send details direct to the Director of Civil Supplies, I shall request him to honour your requisitions promptly.

D.O. letter No. 969/D of December 5/6,1918. to the Assistant Director of Agriculture.

I see from one or two letters received from you to-day,that you are purchasing seed grains at very high prices. You must have seen the copy of the Gazette in which Government have fixed the maximum prices for grains for various places and you know as well as I do that orders of Government cannot be disregarded by a department of Government. As I said before, we may pay a higher rate— a few rupees more than the maximum if the seed is good— but anything above this will not be justifiable under the circumstances. If you cannot agree with regard to terms, you may indicate which lot you wish to secure and the revenue department will get it for you. Please give this your early attention and have things fixed up properly even with regard to consignments already purchased. I should think about 50% more than the maximum Government rate for the place of purchase should give your men a fair margin but it is essential that the seed is good. I can understand that there will be difficulty in cases ~~wh~~ where you purchase small quantities ,a few seers at a time ,, and this is where your men should use tact. If properly managed, the people will probably sell in consideration of our higher rate. If necessary,grain may be purchased and given them in exchange.

Letter No. 1006-1007/D of December 10,1918. to the Deputy and Assistant Directors of Agriculture.

I have the honour to inform you that Government have sanctioned the appointment of 32 fieldmen at the rate of four for each district. Please appoint them at an early date and engage suitable godowns for stocking the seed &c. You are also permitted to correspond with each other direct in the matter of purchase and transport of grains from division to division and apply to the Director of Civil Supplies who has been requested to issue on your requisitions prionity certificates for transport of seed by rail. The Agricultural Inspectors are also authorised to issue similar permits for transport of seed grain from district to district asper recent orders. The Agricultural Inspectors may be informed that their requisitions for funds ~~sh~~ should be sent to you ; and if you sign them in token of your approval and send them,the necessary money will be drawn and sent to them direct and they should be strictly asked to send the relative accounts promptly to this office direct.

It will be necessary to submit to this office twice in a week a progress report of operations showing seed collected,seed distributed and stock on hand.

I need not state that it is quite important to collect adequate stocks of seed to meet all demands. The fact that seed is available may be suitably advertised near each depot; when sufficiently large quantities of seed have been collected,I will arrange to have the matter advertised in the press.

I trust that these facilities will expedite the dispatch of business with regard to arranging for seed grain distribution.

COPY.

Conf No. 41-18.
20

Dear Dr Coleman,

No G. 127
P.P. 41-18-45

With reference to your demi Official letter dated the 15th August 1919 forwarding for the favourable Consideration of Govt, a representation from Mr H. V. Kushnappa regarding certain remarks against him Contained in G.O. No 27366-71-P.P. 41-18-38 of the 5th June 1919, I am desired to inform You that Govt. have carefully considered the matter again and do not see any reason to withdraw the remarks in question.

Yours Sincerely

29/8

for Chief Secy.

To
Dr. L. C. Coleman Ph. D.
Dir of Agriculture

30/8